# The Maryland Fruit Grower

February, 1933

Maryland State
Horticultural Society

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# Maryland ◆ Fruit ◆ Grower

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**A. F. VIERHELLER, Editor**

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## *ECONOMY IN ORCHARD MANAGEMENT*

Speaking before the Maryland State Horticultural Society, in January, Dr. E. C. Auchter discussed the care of drought-injured trees. His remarks might well be applied to any orchard, since he discussed economy in care of all types of trees. A part of his discussion follows:

"I would say one of the general things to do this coming spring, is this: Plan to get plenty of soil moisture. These trees which have been drought injured are in pretty bad shape and you want to give them a start in the spring. We want to do everything we can to take away all competing factors; get all the moisture and nitrate we can, which comes down to breaking your sod orchards. I believe this coming season, in spite of favorable discussions of sod mulch, generally speaking, it would pay to crack up, or break up, those sod orchards before growth starts next spring, and the quicker you do it the better, unless your orchards are on a steep hill side. Do not have grass competing there with the trees early in the spring for either moisture or nitrate. I am not advising keeping those orchards permanently broken up under all conditions but under particular conditions this year, I believe it is a desirable thing to do.

Another thing that I would suggest is to reduce competition by removing those trees that are too thick on the ground. You have doubtless been intending to pull them out for the past five or six years. Why not stop the expense of pruning and spraying and fertilizing them and do something to give the other trees the additionall amount of nitrate and moisture?

Generally speaking, it is well to get some nitrogen on the orchards this year, depending upon the particular condition of your individual orchard and of your pocket-book. As a general suggestion, if you can do it, get on some nitrogen and get that on before growth starts next spring; try to get it on by March first, or any time from now on; get it on before growth starts early next spring.

There are four types of drought-weakened orchards:

(1) Type of trees badly injured, either dead or so nearly dead; the trees were badly wilted, they lost leaf area, died back in the tops and were on very shallow soil, that you know have never made normal growth; never have been especially profitable. Get rid of them.

(2) Type of trees, pretty badly injured; but yet not going to die by any means. You ought to handle them pretty carefully and that will cost you money. For fear of making recommendations that cost money and hav-

ing you think I am not sympathetic with your financial condition, I hate to say some things I am going to say.

First: Cultivate these orchards and the sooner the better. Then get some nitrogen on them; maybe not as much as you have been putting on in the past. If you have to borrow money, you probably could not afford to do it. Cultivate them, put on half the amount of nitrogen you would normally; if you have some cheap mulch on the place, or can get it cheaply, mulch those trees and try to hold the moisture and loss through evaporation next year. Also give them a moderate detailed pruning.

If hard up financially and it means you must borrow the money, cultivate that orchard thoroughly, and try to put on one-fourth of the normal amount of nitrogen.

If in good condition financially, give those trees pretty good treatment this year, unless you plan to pull that block out.

(3) The next type of trees are those that are injured some, but not so seriously. I would make the same suggestion as above, depending on financial condition; but certainly cultivate them and apply nitrogen.

(4) Now we come to the last group of trees, not injured very much and on good deep soil, with the roots down deep and that did not suffer very much this past season. If pretty hard up financially do no more than cultivate them. Do not buy nitrogen or prune them, however, mulch them if possible. Do not spend any money otherwise, unless in good shape financially, in which case buy nitrogen and prune them. I think they will get along very well one year. I think it is better this coming year, and maybe next year, under the financial conditions, just to keep the orchards growing without too much expense.

No matter how you handle these orchards, if you have a heavy set of fruit, plan to thin that fruit. That will cost money too; but, if it should be dry, there is no need of growing small stuff you cannot sell. Better take a chance of the cost of thinning and hope to make some money on the larger sized fruit. I believe you will have to do that on the weak trees; you cannot develop a crop on trees in weakened condition.

Lastly, that brings us to the thing we have all admitted is true—we have got to spray. If we do not keep the leaf area in excellent shape, so that it will function properly, we cannot expect to produce good fruit."

* * *

I am an apple, a big, red, delicious apple, nature's choicest gift to man; ripened and sweetened on the branches of sturdy trees; sound as a nut, sweet as the kisses of first love; beautiful as a picture, and flavored like some rare old fruity wine aged in the wood at Oporto; the light dapples and glints on my lustrous red surface, polished by the caressing touch of the vagrant breeze, and painted by the level beams of August suns; while in my heart are stored the garnered sweets of summer days and the cool freshness of morning dews. (I am the fruit with which Eve tempted Adam, the fruit that caused the Trojan War, the fruit that cost Atalanta her race with Hippomenes.) Doubless God could have made a better fruit than an apple, but doubtless God never did.

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## The CYANAMID PLAN of Fertilizing Fruit Trees

*It involves no radical changes from the best orchard practices.*

**The Plan requires:**

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2. **Use of phosphate and potash as required by the cover crops**
3. **Plowing under or discing into soil of these cover crops**
4. **Occasional breaking up of any permanent sod allowed to develop**
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## *CHECKING UP*

We hear on the radio "See your dentist, at least twice a year." We drive the old car to the garage for a "once-over" occasionally, and if we have time, we go to our doctor, occasionally, just to see if we're in good shape. There is a story of a young darkey boy who walked into a drug store in a little Southern town and asked to use the telephone. He called a number and Dr. Jones answered. "Hello, Doctah, does you-all need a good niggah boy?" "No," replied the Doctor, "I have a boy, now." "Yas, suh," replied the boy, "but is he any good?" "Sure, he's a good boy," said the Doctor. "Yas, suh, much obliged, suh," said the boy, as he hung up the receiver. He started out the door. "Hey," said the druggist, "don't you work for Dr. Jones?" "Yas, suh," replied the darkey boy, "but I jest called to check up on maself."

A little different type of "checking up" is that described by E. M. Harvey in Oregon Bulletin No. 279, in relation to pruning. Experimental work that has led to development of our present pruning recommendations has nearly all had to do with external response that we got from the tree. Dr. Harvey worked out a plan of using suction to draw dyes up into the branches cut from trees, so as to find just where nutrient materials travel in various parts of the tree, and what effect certain types of pruning or grafting will have on the movement of these materials. Briefly, his findings were about as follows:

Large scaffold branches on older trees seem to have their own water conducting systems that are not shared by other parts of the tree. There seems to be little stimulation to other parts of the tree when these branches are removed, except water sprout growth, or growth caused by allowing more light to enter the tree, if the limb removed was shading other parts of the tree.

On smaller branches, 1 to 4 years old, the dye showed penetration into other small branches near the branch where the suction was applied, showing that if small branches are removed, the water and nutrients will be of use to branches nearby. This checks up the recommendation of making small cuts throughout the tree for stimulation and as a means of thinning out crowded, shading branches.

Wide angled crotches shared more conducting tissue between the two branches forming the crotch. In narrow-angled crotches (Y shaped) there was less stimulation if such crotches broke or "slabbed off" than when a branch of a wide angle crotch broke off or was cut off. We have observed this in our pruning.

Water-sprouts were found to be rather heavy users of water and they seem to draw rather heavily upon the nutrient supply of the tree. We have been told to remove excess water sprouts, but don't clip *all* of them off just because they are water sprouts. If they are needed to replace or form branches, use them. If there is danger of sun-scald and winter injury on exposed or bare parts of branches, the shading effects during summer and winter are worth keeping some water sprouts on the tree, to prevent these injuries.

## *READ THIS*

President Young of the Ohio State Horticultural Society and himself a fruit grower of Ohio, stated recently:

Altogether too much poor quality fruit has been sent abroad and now, partly in retaliation for the tariff regulations against these countries by the provisions of the new tariff law, and through pressure from their own growers to keep our apples out, these governments are adding to their tariff on our exports and placing high standards as to quality of products that may be admitted to their ports.

Only because growers here have shown a disposition to meet their demands as to absence of maggot, spray residue, etc., and to efficiency of inspection service has even the present amount of exports been possible.

France, Germany and Belgium have very high tariffs on our apples and very high restrictions. France is peeved at our restrictions on nursery stock; Belgium on bulbs; Argentine on grapes, etc.

There is now no tolerance on apple maggot; .01 on arsenical residue and the latest "bugaboo" is San Jose Scale.

The tightening up of restrictions on apples for export means that more poor stuff will be dumped on home markets, and that we in Ohio will have to put up some state barriers to keep out this stuff from our markets. Indiana is doing this. Michigan is too. It is a matter we must look into.

We eastern growers have been getting away with murder, in our production and disposal of cull stuff, and unless we individually and collectively clean up and produce better fruit, such as consumers want, we are going to find ourselves out of the picture. We will have to quit producing so much poor stuff, and when we do find ourselves with some of it, to keep it off the market. I realize the arguments pro and con on this, and am just as guilty as the rest of you. We are all alike—but I am convinced that if we are to continue successfully in the apple producing game we simply MUST produce more of the better grades and less of the poor grades or we are sunk. It is only a question of a short time until it will be unlawful to pack a dirty or blemished apple, and only No. 1 and No. 2 grade—nothing below that. We might just as well begin now to set our houses in order and get reorganized on a new and better basis.

The U. S. cannot possibly profitably consume all the apples and pears we can produce from present plantations. Our plantings have been made on the basis of export demand. We simply must, to preserve the industry, do everything possible to meet the requirements and preserve and extend our export trade.

As Ohio growers, we are not interested in exporting, but we are most vitally interested in seeing Virginia, New York, W. Va., and Maryland export a large share of their crops, so they will not come into competition in our splendid Ohio consuming markets. We eastern growers are going to go forward *together,* or go down together. As Governor Byrd remarked—the present situation is critical and calls for united action.

**(The Ohio State Horticultural Society News Letter.)**

* * *

Sunday School Teacher (reading of the deluge): And then it rained for forty days and forty nights."

Bright Pupil: "I'll bet that tickled the farmers, didn't it, teacher?"

## *COMING BACK*

The average fruit grower is optimistic. He knows that there are plenty of problems to be ironed out of the fruit business and he's doing his bit to help solve some of the problems at his end of the line.

Fruit growers everywhere are planning as never before, on all orchard operations. They are putting a lot of solid thought into their pruning operations, and are planning how to get their highest dollar value out of fertilizer, spray material and orchard soil management. And, equally as important, they are watching markets more closely. They are even looking at world markets, realizing that it's to the advantage of every grower that our foreign markets be developed to consume the great crop of American apples.

Reports indicate that fruit growers and farmers generally have been attending the horticultural society meetings, and state farm shows and farmers' conventions. In some states the crowds this year were the largest ever. The old idea that such meetings are merely to "teach us how to grow more stuff" is dying out. The annual meetings of your horticultural societies and other farm organizations are planned to discuss today's problems, to exchange ideas and to get a new grip on things. They help us to keep our "chins up" in these times.

We have an optimist among us. He's a fruit grower and also a real estate man. In spite of these combined occupations he has become happily poetic. His poem should warm any man's soul and put a grin on his face that won't rub off. Here it is:

### *"DOWN,* BROTHER—BUT NEVER *OUT"*

"In the dim and distant ages, when we lived on handsome wages,
When the market was a source of easy 'dough'—
When a man could take a flyer and his stocks would go up higher,
There was little that we had to do or know.

Life was just a bed of roses where we liked to poke our noses,
With a lot of time to sleep and be serene,
And our only kind of worry was our racing and our hurry.
As we struggled hard to catch the eight-fifteen.

We could call our friends and tell 'em of the things we'd like to sell 'em
And they'd buy and send a check when it was due.
So we'd cut up pranks and capers—even laugh at funny papers,
And 'twas easy when the world would smile with you.

But today it's really shocking, all the watches we've been hocking
Since the market took a Humpty-Dumpty fall—
While we 'saps' and happy 'luckers' are a lonely bunch of suckers,
Who have swallowed hook and sinker, line and all.

It's a life of hustle-bustle and the grit to fight and tussle,
But with little time to snooze or rest or play,
But for those who keep on grinning, there's a safe and sure beginning
Of another bright and happy, sunny day."

## *MARKETING OR SELLING?*

Maybe we have used too much printer's ink in discussing marketing of fruit, but we doubt it. The method of marketing our product determines the success of our business. It has been said, "Anyone can grow fruit, but how can we get rid of the crop?" True, anyone can grow fruit, but there's a wide difference in the quality and certainly there's a wide range in price received. Experiment stations, extension workers and horticultural societies have been accused of encouraging increased production. This is true to the extent that we must make our trees produce their maximum crop, but what is more important, the *quality* of fruit produced must be as good as our earnest efforts can produce. In a few words we must produce not necessarily more fruit, but more *better* fruit. This may mean the increasing of quality of present production, or the removal of poor trees and non-profitable varieties with a decreased acreage and better care of the trees remaining.

There is a market or outlet of some sort for all kinds of fruit, but some of this stuff would be better for the market and the growers if it was dumped over the hill.

We all know this type of fruit. It is cull material, really, but when a truck man offers a little cash for it, we can't resist. After the truck has hauled it away, we feel guilty. One grower told of a truck man who bought some cull and throw-out stuff, basket and all, and then picked out some cull facers, turned the good side up double faced the basket and made a fairly decent-looking pack. The finished package was a cull pack, dressed up with a deceptive face and a "hog feed" filler beneath the face. Will the buyer of such stuff become "apple conscious" and rush back for more apples? We doubt it.

This, of course, wasn't a grower's pack, but some such packages have been going to market from the packing house in used baskets and selling at less than 25 cents per bushel. Can this be economy?

Circumstances may alter cases, but there is usually a premium price on quality.

This past fall, a former Maryland resident now living in South Carolina said that in his little town about all the apples that he had seen were brought in by truck and that the reputation of the apple in that section was not so good.

We are in an economic slump. Everybody else seems to be in the same boat. The automobile trade is putting out better cars at reduced prices. Other industries are following the same lead. A good product at a fair profit should be the aim of any producer, in this time of backward conditions. Let's plan now for more efficient methods of handling the 1933 crop.

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is now used in MARYLAND ORCHARDS

**Read every Ad and Patronize our Advertisers**

## *PACKING*

At the recent annual meeting of the West Virginia Horticultural Society, Mr. John Y. McDonald, a grower from Charles Town, told of his packing methods. Among the points brought out were the following: Face barrels carefully and make the face a representative of the fruit all through the barrel. It pays to ring-tail barrels. They look better and pack and carry better. Don't rush the job of packing. If in a hurry, get a larger crew and work slower. Change the hired help around, occasionally. They may get tired and careless on the same job all day. Use shredded oil paper to add to appearance of pack and to prevent scald, but be careful to keep the floor clear of this paper. It burns instantly if accidentally set afire. Keep packing house clean, anyway. A good grower will clean his packing house floor thoroughly daily. Be neat in using stamps or stencils. A mussy stamp or label doesn't help the package to sell, and is harder for the trade to read. Have the packing house crew stamp basket lids carefully during lull times in the packing house. If you want to check up on the packing crew, watch the cull pile, for if too many good apples get by to the cull pile, there's some need for a check-up and a change somewhere.

## *A LOT OF WOOD*

In 1931 California shipped 5,943 cars of apples, 5,625,585 boxes. Oregon shipped 5,620 cars, 5,310,900 boxes. Idaho 6,973 cars, 6,589,485 boxes. Washington 45,227 cars, 42,839,515 boxes.

Almost 200,000,000 feet of lumber was consumed in making the boxes for the apples shipped by those four states. It requires about three and one-quarter feet of lumber to make an apple box.—Barrel and Box and Packages.

* * *

If 50 per cent of the root system of a tree is in soil where no moisture is available, the other 50 per cent of roots will not increase the amount of water they are taking up. The water intake of the tree is reduced 50 per cent and in dry times this is an advantage, because should a tree be able to take up a normal water supply with 50 per cent of its roots the tree would suffer proportionally as the drought increased.—Hoosier Horticulture, Oct. 1932.

* * *

## *TRY THIS*

Old Lady—"Can't you cheer your little brother up, and stop his crying?"

Small Boy—"Did you ever try to cheer anybody up that's just had five bananas, two hot dogs, seven ice cream cones, and three green apples?"

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4,000 York Imperial, large 2 and 3 year old Trees, especially suited for replanting, at $20.00 per hundred, or $160.00 per 1,000. Don't miss these as they are just the thing for replanting your York orchards. Plant plenty of Richared Delicious and Black Staymans, they will make you money.
5,000,000 Strawberry plants. Best money making varieties. Blackberries and Raspberries. Also Grapes and Currants.

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DO YOU WANT THEM? THEY WERE GROWN FOR YOU!
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# SCALECIDE Orchards

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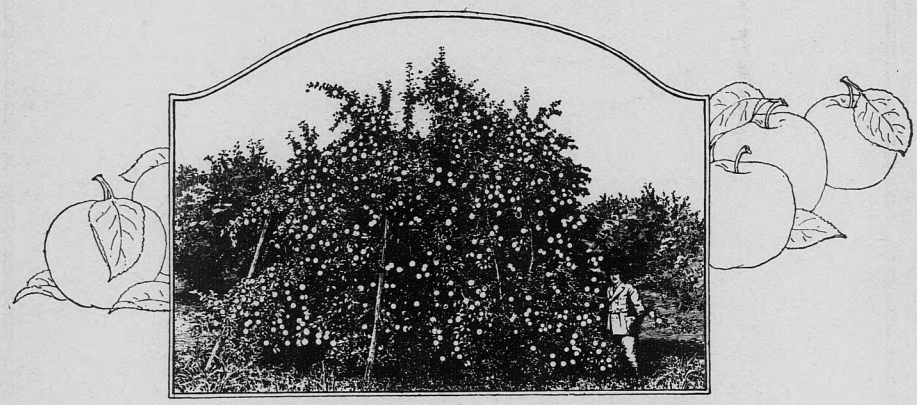

Eighteen year old trees produced thirty bushels per tree—rinth consecutive crop—each crop larger than the preceding—sprayed for fifteen years with Scalecide. New ownership used oil emulsion for past seven years—no crop last three years.

Years ago **any** oil spray was considered dangerous. But because Scalecide proved its safety, efficiency and such production records as given above, over a long period of years, **any** oil was assumed to be safe.

However no oil spray is made like Scalecide or from the same materials. Scalecide contains 90% active oils, including vegetable oils known to increase plant vigor. Scalecide does **not** contain lubricating oils, but oils "just right" to kill insects quickly and promptly disappears, leaving the trees bright and clean but **not greasy.**

Any oil spray that leaves a greasy coating on the tree tends to clog the pores and retard metabolism, reducing vigor and productiveness. Prove it by spraying a young orchard with Scalecide that has not yet had its pores clogged with heavy oils, and watch it respond with a most vigorous growth.

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